

side of my net a specimen of this beautiful insect. Its occurrence in such an unusual situation, far from a known foodplant, was possibly not unconnected with the fact that the site is but a stone's throw from a major motorway. However it may have reached the spot — whether flown from a garden not far off, or accidentally transported from an indefinite distance — the beetle can doubtless only be regarded as a stray.

Records of the Lily beetle from Kent seem very few. I have no definite information on occurrences in the county since 1957, but before that date it had been found at Chattenden near Rochester in 1895 (Fox-Wilson, 1943, *Proc. R. ent. Soc. Lond.* (A) 18: 85), and there are ancient records from localities on the Kent side of London: Deptford, Camberwell, Peckham (Stephens, and cited by Fowler); I have an example marked "Mr Groves/Lewisham/1859". The Shooters Hill find is evidently not the first in this general area, since my late friend A.W. Gould once told me that it turned up in the garden of an acquaintance somewhere in the Blackheath district; but the infestation, I understood, was short-lived. As pointed out by B.J. Southgate (1959, *Ent.Gaz.* 10 (4): 139), the species has for many years been centred on the district around Chobham in Surrey, where alone I had previously taken it; other records being (as is probably still the case) only sporadic.— A.A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, Charlton, London SE7 8QG.

***Anaspis bohémica* Schilsky (Col.: Scrpitiidae) at Loch Garten, Inverness-shire.**

On a visit to the RSPB Loch Garten Reserve on 7.vi.90, we beat from young pine trees carrying male blossoms a number of *Anaspis* which proved later to be a mixture of *A. bohémica* and *A. rufilabris* in roughly equal proportions. Both sexes of *bohémica* were present (three males and five females).

As far as we are aware, this is only the third time the species has been recorded in Britain. In bringing the species forward as British, our good friend Mr A.A. Allen (1975 *Ent. Rec.* 87: 269) recorded that the species was taken by the late G.H. Ashe at Forest Lodge in a part of Abernethy Forest about 7km distant from where we found it. Some years later, one of us (Owen *Ent. Rec.* 100: 191) captured a female near Coylumbridge at a distance of about 12km from Forest Lodge. Ashe's specimens were beaten from broom whereas the Coylumbridge specimen was beaten from dead pine branches in an area which had been clear-felled. The occurrence of the species on male pine blossom has been noted previously in Denmark (Allen 1975 *loc. cit.*).

Most, if not all, *Anaspis* species develop in dead wood. The association of *A. bohémica* with pine in Scotland and elsewhere suggests that this species develops in dead pine wood. It may be that, where we found our specimens, there was a considerable quantity of dead pine branches which

had arisen from thinning operations on young pine trees and which had been deliberately left lying on the ground in small stacks as a conservation measure.

We thank Mr Stewart Taylor, Warden for permission to study beetles on the RSPB Loch Garten Reserve.

M.L. LUFF, Department of Agricultural and Environmental Science, The University, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU.

J.A. OWEN, 8 Kingsdown Road, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3PU.

### **Unusually early emergence of Lepidoptera in spring 1990 noticed as far north as Banffshire.**

No doubt most observers witnessed the unusually early emergence of many moths in the warm spring of 1990. However, this was not confined to southern Britain, but was very noticeable as far north as Banffshire (vc94). As there are few recorders in that area, especially in spring, the following April records from the favoured Deveron valley near Banff may be of interest:

Nut-tree Tussock (*Colocasia coryli* L.) 20.iv.90 (two)

Garden carpet (*Xanthorhoe fluctuata* L.) 22.iv.90

Scalloped Hazel (*Odontopera bidentata* Cl.) 23.iv.90

Brown Silver-line (*Petrophora chlorosata* Scop.) 24.iv.90

Peppered Moth (*Biston betularia* L.) 28.iv.90 (three)

Lunar Thorn (*Selenia lunularia* Hb.) 28.iv.90

White Ermine (*Spilosoma lubricipeda* L.) 28.iv.90

Small Phoenix (*Ecliptopera silaceata* D.& S.) 29.iv.90

Common Pug (*Eupethicia vulgata* Haw.) 29.iv.90

Puss Moth (*Cerura vinula* L.) 30.iv.90.

Most of these would be exceptional dates for first sightings even in Sussex, and I suspect that northern population are adapted to respond to relatively lower temperatures than are populations of the same species further south.— ROY LEVERTON, Ordiquhill, Cornhill, Banffshire AB45 2HS.

### **A note on *Leptura sanquinolenta* Linnaeus (Col.: Cerambycidae)**

This beetle has been recorded in Scotland by various observers but, apart from its occurrence in areas with long established woods of Scots' Pine (*Pinus sylvestris* L.) and the fondness of the adults for blossoms, very few original observations seem to have been made on its life history in Britain and practically nothing published. Fowler (1922 *Entomologist's mon. Mag.* 58: 208) records the successful rearing of two specimens from larvae taken at Nethy Bridge in 1921 but does not mention the pabulus in which the larvae were found.

In view of the paucity of this information, it seems worth recording that, on 8.vi.90, I came across pupae of the species in the trunk of a fallen dead pine in Abernethy Forest, Scotland and reared adults from some of them.